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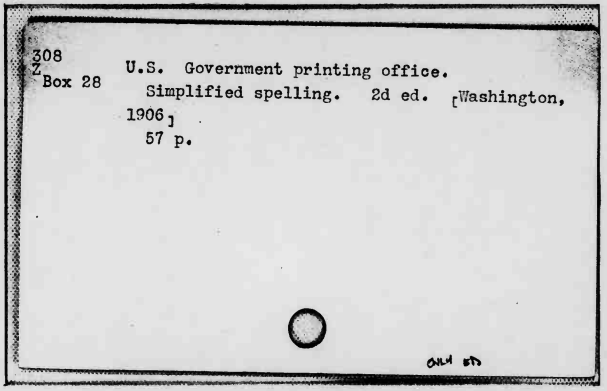

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President Butler APR 15 1915

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING

FOR THE USE OF
GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING

SECOND EDITION

FOR THE USE OF
GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS

2d Ed.—2,798—10-06.

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IN FEB 1916 MS

OFFICE OF
THE PUBLIC PRINTER
WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1906.

Pursuant to an Executive order authorizing and directing that the Government Departments adopt the system of spelling recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board, the accompanying list of words is submitted for guidance and use in the preparation of all copy for publications to be printed at the Government Printing Office.

Attention is called to the President's letter addrest to the Public Printer, under date of August 27, 1906, stating clearly the reasons for adopting this revision in spelling; also the first six circulars issued by the Simplified Spelling Board, which give comprehensive basic information relative to this matter.

The seeming difficulties of adapting copy to the new method will become greatly minimized when it is realized that of the 300 words recommended for immediate adoption 153 are at present in preferred use in the Government Printing Office; 49 of the others in this list are not preferred in Webster's Dictionary, but are used in the Government Printing Office wherever the author requests copy to be followed.

Very respectfully,

CHAS. A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OYSTER BAY, N. Y.,
August 27, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. STILLINGS:

I inclose herewith copies of certain circulars of the Simplified Spelling Board, which can be obtained free from the board at No. 1 Madison avenue, New York City. Please hereafter direct that in all Government publications of the Executive Departments the 300 words enumerated in Circular No. 5 shall be spelled as therein set forth. If anyone asks the reason for the action, refer him to Circulars 3, 4, and 6 as issued by the Simplified Spelling Board.

Most of the criticism of the proposed step is evidently made in entire ignorance of what the step is, no less than in entire ignorance of the very moderate and common-sense views as to the purposes to be achieved, which views are so excellently set forth in the circulars to which I have referred. There is not the slightest intention to do anything revolutionary or initiate any far-reaching policy.

The purpose simply is for the Government, instead of lagging behind popular sentiment, to advance abreast of it and at the same time abreast of the views of the ablest and most practical educators of our time as well as of the most profound scholars—men of the stamp of Professor Lounsbury and Professor Skeat.

If the slight changes in the spelling of the three hundred words proposed wholly or partially meet popular approval, then the changes will become permanent without any reference to what public officials or individual private citizens may feel; if they do not ultimately meet with popular approval they will be dropt, and that is all there is about it.

They represent nothing in the world but a very slight extension of the unconscious movement which has made agricultural implement makers and farmers write "plow" instead of "plough;" which has made most Americans write "honor"

without the somewhat absurd, superfluous "u;" and which is even now making people write "program" without the "me"—just as all people who speak English now write "bat," "set," "dim," "sum," and "fish," instead of the Elizabethan "batte," "sette," "dimme," "summe," and "fysshe;" which makes us write "public," "almanac," "era," "fantasy," and "wagon," instead of the "publick," "almanack," "acra," "phantasy," and "waggon" of our great-grandfathers.

It is not an attack on the language of Shakespeare and Milton, because it is in some instances a going back to the forms they used, and in others merely the extension of changes which, as regards other words, have taken place since their time.

It is not an attempt to do anything far-reaching or sudden or violent; or indeed anything very great at all. It is merely an attempt to cast what slight weight can properly be cast on the side of the popular forces which are endeavoring to make our spelling a little less foolish and fantastic.

Sincerely, yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Hon. CHARLES A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer, Washington.

Simplified Spelling Board, Circular No. 1, March 21, 1906.

A FIRST STEP.

All whose mother tongue is English believe that, if it is not unfairly handicapped, it will become the dominant and international language of the world. For this destiny it is fitted by its use as the medium of the widest commerce and the most progressive civilization, by its cosmopolitan vocabulary, and by its grammatical simplicity. No other existing speech, and none of the proposed artificial international languages, has the same adaptability to such a use. There is, however, a widespread and well-grounded conviction that in its progress toward this goal our language is handicapped by one thing and one only—its intricate and disordered spelling, which makes it a puzzle to the stranger within our gates and a mystery to the stranger beyond the seas. English is easy, adaptable, and capable of a many-sided development; its spelling is difficult and cumbersome.

Apart from its relation to the foreigner, our intricate and disordered spelling also places a direct burden upon every native user of English. It wastes a large part of the time and effort given to the instruction of our children, keeping them, for example, from one to two years behind the school children of Germany, and condemning many of them to alleged "illiteracy" all their days. Moreover, the printing, typewriting, and handwriting of the useless letters which our spelling prescribes, and upon which its difficulty chiefly rests, waste every year millions of dollars, and time and effort worth millions more. If then, as is certain, the reasonable and gradual simplification of our spelling will aid the spread of English, with the attendant advancement of commerce; of democratic ideals, and of intellectual and political freedom, will economize the time of our school children and make their work more efficient, and will aid greatly in the cheapening of printing, is it not a matter which appeals to common sense, to patriotism, and to philanthropy?

Some of those who would like to see our spelling made simpler fear that this will obscure the derivation of words, but all etymologists deny the statement and repudiate the argument. Etymology is history and is now secure in innumerable books. Some object to any change, not realizing that change—much of it of the nature of simplification—has been almost continuous in the history of English spelling. We do not print Shakespeare's or Bacon's words as they were written, and surely no great catastrophe to English literature or to the literary character of the language will have happened if our successors find—as they certainly will—as great or greater differences between their spelling and that of the present day. In familiar correspondence many simplified forms are now used which shock no one's nerves, and in the most emotional poetry forms such as *dropt*, *stept*, *prest* (Tennyson) are printed without attracting attention. So eminent a body as the National Educational Association, of many thousand members, has deliberately selected a number of simplified spellings to be used in its printed documents, and these spellings have been adopted by many periodicals and by hundreds of individuals. In fact, it is probable that if all English words were printed to-morrow in the simpler forms which they unquestionably will bear a hundred years hence, it would take a very little while for us all to become accustomed to them.

With the purpose of expediting this natural process of change which has been going on for centuries, and, as far as may be possible, of guiding it in the direction of simplicity and economy, an organization known as the Simplified Spelling Board (the members of which are named below) has been formed, which will urge educated people everywhere to aid in the gradual simplification of English spelling, and thus help to make the English language more and more easy to acquire and to use. The liberality of Mr. Andrew Carnegie has supplied this board with funds for its work, and plans for a campaign which will extend over a number of years have been formed.

The recommendations of the board will be announced from time to time as its plans mature. In this preliminary circular it desires merely to ask those who sympathize with its aims to take a simple initial step. There is inclosed a list of three hundred of the *commonest* words (not the complete list, which amounts to thousands), of which different spellings are authorized by the leading dictionaries or by the usage of eminent men of letters, the simpler forms being printed in the first column and the more complex forms in the second. An addrest postal card is also inclosed. If you will sign and mail the card, agreeing to use the simpler form as far as may practically be possible, you will indicate your approval of the aims of the board, your name will be placed on its files, and you will receive its publications as they appear.

The members of the Simplified Spelling Board are the following:

Brander Matthews, professor in Columbia University, chairman.
E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the University of Nebraska.
O. C. Blackmer, publisher, Oak Park (Chicago), Ill.
David J. Brewer, justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University.
Andrew Carnegie, New York.
Samuel L. Clemens, New York.
Melvil Dewey, lately director of the New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.
Isaac K. Funk, editor and publisher of the Standard Dictionary.
Lyman J. Gage, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, New York.
Richard Watson Gilder, editor of the Century Magazine.
William T. Harris, Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.
George Hempl, professor in the University of Michigan.
Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Cambridge, Mass.
Henry Holt, publisher, New York.
William James, professor in Harvard University.
David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford University.
Thomas R. Lounsbury, professor in Yale University.
Francis A. March, professor in Lafayette College.
William W. Morrow, United States circuit judge, San Francisco, Cal.
Homer H. Seerley, president of the State Normal School, Cedar Falls, Iowa.
Benjamin E. Smith, editor of the Century Dictionary, New York.
Charles E. Sprague, president of the Union Dime Savings Institution, New York.
Calvin Thomas, professor in Columbia University.
E. O. Vaile, Chicago, Ill.
William Hayes Ward, editor of the Independent, New York.
Robert S. Woodward, president of the Carnegie Institution.
Charles P. G. Scott, etymological editor of the Century Dictionary, New York; secretary.

Simplified Spelling Board, Circular No. 2, March 21, 1906.

LIST OF COMMON WORDS SPELLED IN TWO OR MORE WAYS.

The anomalies and perversities of English spelling are obvious enough and call loudly for regulation. But the very fact that some spellings are anomalous and perverse implies that the other spellings are more or less regular, and this is true. The majority of English words are spelled according to ascertainable analogies, and are thus fairly regular. This is especially true as to literary words of more than one syllable, of Latin or Greek origin. Thus words like *eminent, prominent, evident, protestant, memorial, terrestrial, practical, astronomical, familiar, peculiar, ability, conformity, monopoly, tedious, previous, biology*, etc., are approximately phonetic as to the short vowels which are concerned in these words. They would not present many difficulties to the learner if the learner were not confused by a host of other words with other analogies. It is true also of a great many monosyllables not ending in silent *e*, as *bat, bet, bit, but, bad, bed, bid, bud, ban, bin, bun, cam, dam, slam, slap, slat, clash, clasp, self, help, strong, strength*, etc., but here again a host of other monosyllables suggesting other analogies (*plaid, saith, bread, been, flood, come*, etc.) rush in to badger and confuse the unhappy learner.

The rules and analogies which underlie English spelling can, however, be ascertained and stated, and the exceptions can then be clearly seen. The next thing is to reduce or abolish the exceptions. The process has worked well with many words. Why not continue it with other words? The matter is really very simple. When the rules and analogies are understood, any intelligent person can see for himself when a particular spelling deviates from them. Thus, anyone can see that *binn, bunn, butt* are out of accord with the rule established by the innumerable words like *pin, pun, cut;* that *centre, metre, fibre*, etc., are out of accord with the rule established by *canter, number, timber, diameter*, etc., and that *favour, honour*, etc., are out of accord with the rule established by *error, terror, minor, major, editor, senator*, etc. So likewise *dript, dropt, snapt, drest, prest*, etc., tho now actually less common than *dripped, dropped, snapped, crossed, dressed*, are more in accord with the prevailing analogy of *p* or *s* before a *t* sound, which

appears in *apt, host, boast, best, nest, rust*, etc., and in the old spelling, still retained, of some preterits and participles, as *crept, lost, swept*, etc., as well as *dreamt, leapt*, etc. The common forms *dripped, dropped, dressed, pressed*, etc., are in a great part alterations of seventeenth and eighteenth century spellings with *t*. The alterations were made to establish a visible but fallacious uniformity of inflection. Forms like *dript, dropt, stept, stopt, crost, drest, kist, prest*, etc., abound in the original editions of Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Burns, Scott, Byron, and are very common in more recent poets, as Tennyson, Landor, Swinburne, Lowell. They are always seen in those modern editions of the older standard writers in which the attempt is made to give a correct text. The habit of present publishers of permitting their proofreaders to "adopt" some imperfect standard, like the older dictionaries, as an inflexible rule, and to alter the text of the standard authors, when a new edition is made, to suit his "preference," serves to conceal from the reader the real spelling of the author himself. Thus, not only Shakespeare and Milton, but Pope, Cowper, Byron, Scott, Campbell, Macaulay, are compelled to appear, not in their own spelling, but in the spelling of the publisher or proofreader who chances to "prefer" Worcester or Webster, or some other mechanical guide. This tends to suppress the truth, to stereotype bad forms as well as good, and to prevent that reasonable change toward order and simplicity which was allowed to work freely before the nineteenth century.

Happily, however, there are many hundred words in which this process of stereotyping irregular or anomalous forms has not prevailed, and in which a choice still lies open between a simple or normal form and a less simple or anomalous form.

It has been thought wise to print a partial list of the words now spelled in two or more ways, with a view of informing the public of the facts, and of ascertaining how far intelligent readers will concur in the effort to establish the simpler forms. A full list would contain many hundred words, many of them bookish or technical or semiforeign. Such lists are to be found in the current dictionaries (Webster, Worcester, Standard), but they were compiled for a different purpose, and not only include spellings long obsolete, but omit many spellings (like *dropt, prest, tho*, etc.) always in extensive use.

The following list contains 300 common words now spelled in two or more ways. The list could be made to contain 600 or 900. The number depends upon the limits assigned to the word "common," and upon the purpose in view.

There are in this list about 40 distinguishable classes of words. We mention 20. The other classes include each only a few words. Some words are quite isolated.

Certain large classes of words spelled in two or more ways are for the sake of brevity omitted from the present list. Such are the chemical words in *-ide* or *-id*, and *-ine* or *-in*, and the forms involving *-ll-* or *-l-*, or *-tt-* or *-t-*, before suffixes, as *travelled* or *traveled*, *traveller* or *traveler*, *travelling* or *traveling*, etc.; *rivetted* or *riveted*, *rivetter* or *riveter*, *rivetting* or *riveting*, etc. Of course the simpler form is to be preferred.

The classes included, arranged in the alphabetic order of the letters or affixes affected, are as follows:

1. Words spelled with **ae**, **æ**, or **e**. Rule: Choose **e**. Ex.: *Anesthetic*, *esthetic*, *medieval*, etc.

2. Words spelled with **-dge-ment** or **-dg-ment**. Rule: Omit **e**. Ex.: *Abridgment*, *acknowledgment*, *judgment*, *lodgment*.

3. Words spelled with **-ed** or **-t**, the preceding single consonant being doubled before **-ed** (*-pped*, *-ssed*) and left single before **-t** (*-pt*, *-st*). Rule: Choose **-t** in all cases. Ex.: *Dipt*, *dript*, *dropt*, *stept*, *stopt*, etc., *blest*, *prest*, *distrest*, *mist*, etc., *blusht*, *husht*, *washt*, etc.

Forms like these, being inflections, are commonly omitted in the dictionary lists of words spelled in two or more ways, but they are genuine historical spellings, and can not be ignored. Some are very ancient (for example, *kist* is Anglo-Saxon *cyste* and *mist* is Anglo-Saxon *miste*), and all are frequent and normal in English literature from Spenser, Shakespeare, and Milton to Tennyson and Lowell. We cite some authorities, from original or exact editions, for the principal forms included in the list. Exact references can be supplied. Similar forms abound in the authors mentioned and others. Milton, for example, has *compast*, *languisht*, *vanquisht*, *admonisht*, *astonisht*, *diminisht*, *polisht*, *worshipt*, *supt*, *ceast*, *linkt*, *matcht*, *scorcht*, etc.

addrest: Spenser, Milton, Pope, Fitzgerald.
blusht: Shakespeare, Burns.
carest: Burns.
clapt: Bible (1611), Shakespeare, De Foe, Tennyson.

claspt: Stanyhurst, Goldsmith, Tennyson.
clipt: Bible (1611), Shelley, Tennyson.
confest: Milton, Dryden, Gray.
cropt: Bible (1611), Pope.
crost: Shakespeare, Bunyan, Dryden, Burns, Scott, Lowell.
crusht: Bible (1611), Milton, Burns.
curst: Shakespeare, Dryden, Goldsmith.
deprest: Milton, Gray, Burns.
dipt: Bible (1611), Milton, Pope, Gray, Tennyson, Lowell.
distrest: Milton, Goldsmith, Burns, Lowell.
drest: Spenser, Dryden, Pope, Goldsmith, Burns, Tennyson.
dript: Hacket.
droopt: Tennyson.
dropt: Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Burns, Mrs. Browning, Tennyson, Swinburne, Lowell.
exprest: Dryden, Pope, Milton, Goldsmith.
fixt: Shakespeare, Milton, Cowley, Dryden, Thirlwall.
gript: Milton, Tennyson.
heapt: Milton, Lowell.
husht: Shakespeare, Dryden, Wilson.
imprest: Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Burns, Cary.
kist: Shakespeare, Milton, Goldsmith, Tennyson.
lapt: Tennyson, Lewis Morris.
lasht: Spenser, Shakespeare, Quarles.
leapt: Addison, Collins, Tennyson, Mrs. Browning, Swinburne.
lookt: Spenser, Milton, Bunyan, De Foe.
lopt: Shakespeare, Milton, Young.
mist: Shakespeare, Walton, Bunyan, Lowell.
mixt: Bible (1611), Shakespeare, Bacon, Milton, Addison.
nipt: Shakespeare, Pope, Shelley.
oppprest: Milton, Dryden, Burns.
past: Shakespeare, Dryden, Goldsmith, Burns, Tennyson.
possest: Milton, Addison, Pope, Gray, Goldsmith, Lowell.
prest: Spenser, Milton, Dryden, Burns, Tennyson, Lowell.
propt: Dryden, Pope, Burns, Tennyson, Lowell.
sipt: Tennyson.
skipt: Shakespeare, Milton.
slipt: Shakespeare, Tennyson.
stept: Milton, Bunyan, Dryden, Burns, Scott, Tennyson.
stopt: Shakespeare, Milton, Tennyson.

stript: Shakespeare, Bunyan, Burns, Tennyson, Lowell.
tapt: Tennyson.
tipt: Milton, Pope, Somerville.
tost: Milton, Dryden, Burns, Whittier, Lowell.
trapt: Tennyson.
tript: Shakespeare.
vext: Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Tennyson, Lowell.
wisht: Shakespeare, Milton.
wrapt: Milton, Burns, Pope, Cowper, Scott, Lowell.

4. Words spelled with **-ence** or **-ense** (Latin **-ens-a**). Rule: Choose **-ense.** Ex.: *Defense, offense, pretense.*

5. Words spelled with **-ette** or **-et.** Rule: Omit **-te.** Ex.: *Coquet, epaulet, etiquet, omelet,* etc.

6. Words spelled with **gh** or **f.** Rule: Choose **f.** Ex.: *Draft.*

7. Words spelled with **-gh** or without. (1) **-ough** or **-ow.** Rule: Choose **-ow.** Ex.: *Plow.* (2) **-ough** or **-o.** Rule: Choose **-o.** Ex.: *Altho* (Bunyan), *tho* (Bunyan), *thoro, -boro* (in place names).

8. Words with the verb suffix, of Greek origin, spelled **-ise** or **-ize.** Rule: Choose **-ize.** Ex.: *Catechize, criticize, exorcize, legalize,* etc.

9. Words spelled with **-ite** or **-it.** Rule: Omit **e.** Ex.: *Deposit, preterit.*

10. Words spelled with **-ll** or **-l** (**-ill** or **-il**). Rule: Choose **-l.** Ex.: *Distil, fulfil, instil.*

11. Words spelled with **-ll-ness** or **-l-ness.** Rule: Omit one **l.** Ex.: *Dulness, fulness.*

12. Words spelled with **-mme** or **-m.** Rule: Omit **-me.** Ex.: *Gram, program.*

13. Words spelled with **oe, œ,** or **e.** Rule: Choose **e.** Ex.: *Ecumenical, esophagus.*

14. Words spelled with **-our** or **-or.** Rule: Choose **-or.** Ex.: *Favor, fervor, flavor, honor, labor, rigor, rumor, tenor, tumor, valor, vapor, vigor.*

15. Words spelled with **ph** or **f.** Rule: Choose **f.** Ex.: *Fantasm, fantasy, fantom, sulfate, sulfur.*

16. Words spelled with **-rr** or **-r.** Rule: Omit one **r.** Ex.: *Bur, pur.*

17. Words spelled with **-re** or **-er.** Rule: Choose **-er.** Ex.: *Center, meter, miter, niter, sepulcher, theater.*

18. Words spelled with **s** or **z** (in the root). Rule: Choose **z.** Ex.: *Apprize, assize, comprize, raze, surprize, teazel.*

19. Words spelled with **s-** or **sc-.** Rule: Omit **c.** Ex.: *Simitar, sithe.*

20. Words spelled with or without silent **-ue.** Rule: Omit **-ue.** Ex.: *Catalog, decalog, demagog, pedagog, prolog.*

THREE HUNDRED WORDS.

Choose the simpler spelling, that at the left.

abridgment	abridgement
accouter	accoutre
accurst	accursed
acknowledgment	acknowledgement
addrest	addressed
adz	adze
affixt	affixed
altho	although
anapest	anapaest, anapæst
anemia	anaemia, anæmia
anesthesia	anaesthesia, anæsthesia
anesthetic	anaesthetic, anæsthetic
antipyrin	antipyrine
antitoxin	antitoxine
apothem	apothegm, apophthegm
apprize	apprise
arbor	arbour
archeology	archaeology, archæology
ardor	ardour
armor	armour
artizan	artisan
assize	assise
ax	axe
bans	banns
bark	barque

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behavior	behaviour
blest	blessed
blusht	blushed
brazen	brasen
brazier	brasier
bun	bunn
bur	burr
caliber	calibre
caliper	calliper
candor	candour
carest	caressed
catalog	catalogue
catechize	catechise
center	centre
chapt	chapped
check	cheque
checker	chequer
chimera	chimaera, chimæra
civilize	civilise
clamor	clamour
clangor	clangour
clapt	clapped
claspt	clasped
clipt	clipped
clue	clew
coeval	coaeval, coæval
color	colour
colter	coulter
commixt	commixed
comprest	compressed
comprize	comprise
confest	confessed
controller	comptroller
coquet	coquette
criticize	criticise

cropt	cropped
crost	crossed
crusht	crushed
cue	queue
curst	cursed
cutlas	cutlass
cyclopedia	cyclopaedia, cyclopædia
dactyl	dactyle
dasht	dashed
decalog	decalogue
defense	defence
demagog	demagogue
demeanor	demeanour
deposit	deposite
deprest	depressed
develop	develope
dieresis	diaeresis, diæresis
dike	dyke
dipt	dipped
discust	discussed
dispatch	despatch
distil	distill
distrest	distressed
dolor	dolour
domicil	domicile
draft	draught
dram	drachm
drest	dressed
dript	dripped
droopt	drooped
dropt	dropped
dulness	dullness
ecumenical	oecumenical, œcumenical
edile	aedile, ædile
egis	aegis, ægis

enamor	enamour
encyclopedia	encyclopaedia, -pædia
endeavor	endeavour
envelop	envelope
Eolian	Aeolian, Æolian
eon	aeon, æon
epaulet	epaulette
eponym	eponyme
era	aera, æra
esophagus	oesophagus, œsophagus
esthetic	aesthetic, æsthetic
esthetics	aesthetics, æsthetics
estivate	aestivate, æstivate
ether	aether, æther
etiology	aetiology, ætiology
exorcize	exorcise
exprest	expressed
fagot	faggot
fantasm	phantasm
fantasy	phantasy
fantom	phantom
favor	favour
favorite	favourite
fervor	fervour
fiber	fibre
fixt	fixed
flavor	flavour
fulfil	fulfill
fulness	fullness
gage	gauge
gazel	gazelle
gelatin	gelatine
gild	guild
gipsy	gypsy
gloze	glose

glycerin	glycerine
good-by	good-bye
gram	gramme
gript	gripped
harbor	harbour
harken	hearken
heapt	heaped
hematin	haematin, hæmatin
hiccup	hiccough
hock	hough
homeopathy	homoeopathy, homœopathy
homonym	homonyme
honor	honour
humor	humour
husht	hushed
hypotenuse	hypothenuse
idolize	idolise
imprest	impressed
instil	instill
jail	gaol
judgment	judgement
kist	kissed
labor	labour
lacrimal	lachrymal
lapt	lapped
lasht	lashed
leapt	leaped
legalize	legalise
license	licence
licorice	liquorice
liter	litre
lodgment	lodgement
lookt	looked
lopt	lopped
luster	lustre

mama	mamma
maneuver	manœuver, manœuvre
materialize	materialise
meager	meagre
medieval	mediaeval, mediæval
meter	metre
mist	missed
miter	mitre
mixt	mixed
mold	mould
molder	moulder
molding	moulding
moldy	mouldy
molt	moult
mullen	mullein
naturalize	naturalise
neighbor	neighbour
niter	nitre
nipt	nipped
ocher	ochre
odor	odour
offense	offence
omelet	omelette
opprest	oppressed
orthopedic	orthopaedic, orthopædic
paleography	palaeography, palæography
paleolithic	palaeolithic, palæolithic
paleontology	palaeontology, palæontology
paleozoic	palaeozoic, palæozoic
paraffin	paraffine
parlor	parlour
partizan	partisan
past	passed
patronize	patronise
pedagog	pedagogue, pædagogue

pedobaptist	paedobaptist, pædo-
phenix	phoenix, phœnix
phenomenon	phaenomenon, phænom-
pigmy	pygmy
plow	plough
polyp	polype
possest	possessed
practise, v. and n.	practice
prefixt	prefixed
prenomen	praenomen, prænomen
prest	pressed
pretense	pretence
preterit	preterite, præterite
pretermit	praetermit, prætermit
primeval	primaeval, primæval
profest	professed
program	programme
prolog	prologue
propt	propped
pur	purr
quartet	quartette
questor	quaestor, quæstor
quintet	quintette
rancor	rancour
rapt	rapped
raze	rase
recognize	recognise
reconnoiter	reconnoitre
rigor	rigour
rime	rhyme
ript	ripped
rumor	rumour
saber	sabre
saltpeter	saltpetre
savior	saviour

savor	savour
scepter	sceptre
septet	septette
sepulcher	sepulchre
sextet	sextette
silvan	sylvan
simitar	scimitar, cimeter, etc.
sipt	sipped
sithe	scythe
skilful	skillful
skipt	skipped
slipt	slipped
smolder	smoulder
snapt	snapped
somber	sombre
specter	spectre
splendor	splendour
stedfast	steadfast
stept	stepped
stopt	stopped
strest	stressed
stript	stripped
subpena	subpoena, subpœna
succor	succour
suffixt	suffixed
sulfate	sulphate
sulfur	sulphur
sumac	sumach
suppress	suppressed
surprize	surprise
synonym	synonyme
tabor	tabour
tapt	tapped
teazel	teasel, teasle, teazle
tenor	tenour

theater	theatre
tho	though, tho'
thoro	thorough, thoro'
thorofare	thoroughfare
thoroly	thoroughly
thru	through, thro', thro
thruout	throughout
tipt	tipped
topt	topped
tost	tossed
transgrest	transgressed
trapt	trapped
tript	tripped
tumor	tumour
valor	valour
vapor	vapour
vext	vexed
vigor	vigour
vizor	visor
wagon	waggon
washt	washed
whipt	whipped
whisky	whiskey
wilful	willful
winkt	winked
wisht	wished
wo	woe
woful	woeful
woolen	woollen
wrapt	wrapped

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Simplified Spelling Board, Circular No. 3, April 2, 1906.

THE AMELIORATION OF OUR SPELLING.

[An address[a] before the Modern Language Association by CALVIN THOMAS, LL. D., professor of Germanic languages and literatures in Columbia University.]

Let me first of all account for the title of this paper by quoting a few words from a recent editorial of the New York Evening Post:

> If time-worn phrases prevent a calm scrutiny of the facts and a clear perception of the best fiscal policy for this nation * * * let us abandon them for some fresher and truer form of words. * * * Instead of taking free trade for a watchword, if that offends any, we may say that we stand for freer trade. Instead of talking about protecting American industry, let us talk about facilitating it.

The indications are that spelling reform is one of those time-worn phrases the use of which tends to prevent a calm scrutiny of the facts. It seems to excite in many minds on both sides of the ocean a psychical reaction which is unfavorable to sober discussion. It calls up images of a dear mother tongue mutilated and made hideous by soulless vandals; of a demand that men and women who have once learned to read and spell shall acquire these useful arts over again. We hear talk of cranks, humbugs, etc. All of which is unfortunate, not because it hurts the feelings of reformers—for they can always ease their minds by reviling their opponents—but because it pulls the discussion into unprofitable channels and tends to obscure the really important phase of the subject, namely, its educational phase.

Wishing now to charge upon this question boldly and yet circumspectly, I have thought best not to hang out the banner of "spelling reform," which is to many the red ensign of anarchy, but to substitute therefor a sort of pink flag of truce. Let us consider the amelioration of our spelling.

And first a brief historical recapitulation. It was about a quarter of a century ago that the American Philological Association took up the large problem of improving our so-called English orthography. Having worked at it for ten years, in conjunction with the Philological Society of London, they adopted, in 1883, a joint report which recommended a set of

[a] Reprinted from Publications of the Modern Language Association, vol. 17, No. 3, 1902.

rules for amended spelling and embodied a list of some 3,500 words amended in accordance with the rules.

In respect of the scholarly eminence of its promoters the movement could not have had a more distinguished and authoritative sanction. In 1892 our own association past a resolution recommending the rules and the word list. In 1893 an account of the movement was incorporated in the introduction to the new Standard Dictionary, and the amended words were printed as alternative spellings in their proper alphabetical position. A very few of them, especially such as had previously had some currency, have been adopted by certain journals. * * *

More recently the educators have taken the matter up. In 1898 the directors of the National Educational Association past a resolution, by a vote of eighteen to seventeen, authorizing the secretary to adopt in the proceedings of the association such amended spellings as Commissioner Harris and Superintendents Soldan and Balliet might agree upon. These three gentlemen selected, to bear the brunt of a preliminary skirmish, the twelve words: *altho, catalog, decalog, demagog, pedagog, prolog, program, tho, thoro, thorofare, thru, thruout.* Since then these twelve words, in the amended form, have been used regularly in the official proceedings of the National Educational Association and have also been adopted by a number of educational journals, notably the Educational Review. The object of this little experiment was to put out a feeler; to familiarize a part of the public, especially teachers, with the idea that usage is another name for fashion, and that fashions do not grow out of the ground nor fall from heaven, but are created by some one's initiative. * * *

So then, there we are; and the prospect is bright or gloomy according to the view one takes as to the desirableness of improving our spelling at all, and the practicability of improving it thru some kind of joint public effort. For myself I say frankly that if the matter concerned only the taste and convenience of adults, I should take but a feeble interest in it—an interest comparable to that I take in the attacks that are sometimes made on high hats and swallow-tail coats. One who has once learned to read and spell, who has acquired the fixt visual associations which, for better or worse, have become endeared to him, will always find it easier to go on as he has been going than to change his practise, even in small particulars. And this is true not only of

the hostiles and indifferents, but of those who are friendly to the idea of an improved spelling.

It is easy to see why the distinguished scholars and men of letters who have enrolled themselves among the detesters of our conventional spelling nevertheless continue to employ it in their books. It is not merely cowardice, the dread of obloquy, of being called a crank; there are always men enough who are willing to suffer in a good cause, but they need to be upborne by the conviction not only that the cause is good but also that they are accomplishing something worth while by the steps taken. Where this conviction is lacking, it is not to be wondered at that men, even men of good will, shrink from the inconvenience and the bother which attend any serious change of fixt habits. * * *

And other considerations of course come in. One who writes for the public usually wishes before all things to establish cordial relations with his reader, that he may please him or convince him. He does not wish to divert attention to a side issue of spelling or to offend his reader by thrusting upon his eye bizarre-looking word pictures to which he is not accustomed. Authors and publishers who depend on popular favor for their reputation and their income, and to whom reputation and income are primary considerations, can not be expected to sacrifice the greater to the less.

These are commonplace reflections, and I have set them down merely to bring into relief the simple thought that if this spelling question concerned the adult only it would hardly be worth while to bother our heads about it seriously or to attempt to counteract the overwhelming power of that conservatism which, unintelligently, irrationally, but all the more strongly for that very reason, attaches the English-speaking population to the familiar forms of our conventional printed language. We could leave the matter to the free play of the tendencies inherent in human nature, content to exert our individual influence quietly on behalf of common sense and sound reason, but with no particular anxiety for the future and with a cheerful confidence that our printed language, no less than the spoken, will always express the character of the stock that uses it and be as good as that is. There would be no need to worry.

As it is, there *is* need to worry. For there is the question of teaching children to spell—a grave question, an ever-pressing

question, which will not down when some one has said that his religious feeling is offended when he sees the word *Savior* printed without its British *u*. Tastes may differ as to the relative beauty and dignity of particular word pictures, but the educational problem is not a matter of taste. It is not open to question among intelligent and fair-minded persons that a grievous burden is imposed upon childhood by the necessity of mastering, or attempting to master, the intricacies of our English spelling. Parents complain, editors, school inspectors, college examiners complain, and the higher teachers complain of the lower. Many have come to see that there is something somewhere seriously wrong; but only a few of the more enlightened have come to understand that the fault is not with the schools, and can not be corrected either by a return to the tools and methods of fifty years ago or by any devices of the newest new education, for it is inherent in that which Lord Lytton called, aptly enough, our accurst spelling.

Here is a condition which is no joke and will not relieve itself in the lapse of time. It cries aloud to us to do something if possible; to use our best wit and get together if we can, even if in the process we must abrade somewhat the sharp angles of personal prejudice.

How heavy is the burden, as a matter of sober fact? To this question it is difficult to give a strictly scientific answer, because there is no perfectly satisfactory way of attacking the problem. Literature teems with estimates and computations of the time and money wasted in one way and another because of our peculiar spelling; but from the nature of the case they can only be roughly approximative. Speaking broadly, it appears that children receive more or less systematic instruction in spelling thruout the primary grades, that is for eight years. If now we suppose that they pursue on the average five subjects simultaneously, and that spelling receives equal attention with the others, we get one and three-fifths years as the amount of solid school time devoted to this acquirement. This, however, does not tell the whole story; for many begin the struggle before they enter school, many continue to need instruction in the high school and even in college, and not a few walk thru life with an orthographic lameness which causes them to suffer in comfort and reputation. Probably two years and a half would be nearer the mark as a gross estimate of the

average time consumed in learning to spell more or less accurately.

We have now to ask, How much of this time is wasted? How much must we deduct for the reasonable requirements of the case? Zealous reformers often assume that it is practically all wasted. They tell us that if we had a proper system of spelling, the acquisition of the art in childhood would take care of itself after a little elementary instruction. This may be so, but we have no means of proving positively that it is so. If any people in the world had an ideal system of spelling, we might go to them and find out how long it takes their children to learn spelling. But there is no such people, and so we are forced back upon such rough and general statements—perfectly true in themselves—as that German and Italian children learn to spell much more easily and quickly than do our own children. Meanwhile, it is hardly fair to take as one term of comparison an ideal condition which never existed and never will exist. An alphabet must always be a rough instrument of practical convenience. Very certainly our posterity will never adopt any thorogoing system of phonetic spelling. Nothing is going to be changed *per saltum*. The most we can hope for is a gradual improvement, accelerated perhaps by wisely directed effort. This means that spelling will always have to be learned and taught, and that considerable time will have to be devoted to it.

On the other hand, keeping strictly within the limits of the practicable, in view of what other peoples no less conservative than ourselves have actually done, I think it reasonable to calculate that we might save, not in a year or a decade, but in the lapse of two or three generations, say a half of the time now consumed in learning to spell. Certainly we might save a year, and that is much when we consider the indefinite future of four score million people. Here is an argument in the presence of which the delicate emotions of the literary exquisite who is pained by a change of spelling do not seem to be prodigiously important.

And then it must be remembered that the loss of time constitutes by no means the whole of the indictment. Right at the threshold of school life, when the young mind is beginning to ask for the reasons of things, and when every principle of sound education requires that this propensity be developed and

strengthened by appropriate stimuli and discipline—just then we deluge the learner with an avalanche of irrationality. It is strictly true that the foolishness of our English spelling exerts a poisonous influence on our whole primary education. The mass of people, even of the educated, do not know this. Having themselves gone thru the misery long ago, they look upon the struggle with spelling as a necessary evil of childhood—like chicken pox and whooping cough. *We* know—scholars know who have an international scope of vision—that it is *not* altogether necessary, any more than are the contagious diseases. * * *

Notwithstanding appearances to the contrary, some progress has been made during the last quarter of a century, and I, at least, believe that still further and more rapid progress is possible hereafter, and possible by a process of evolution and natural selection, without any cataclysm more violent than that whereby we have got rid of the *k* in *music* and *traffic*. When I speak of progress I mean first of all that the intellectual battle, so far as there ever was any, has been completely won. The various arguments which used to be advanced by the supporters of the conventional spelling—by arguments I mean reasons based on knowledge, or the appearance of knowledge, and meant to convince the intellect of thinking men—have been completely riddled to pieces. There is simply nothing left of them. The schematic argument from the supposed importance of distinguishing homonyms, the etymological argument, the historical argument, the literary argument, have all been passed in review by distinguished scholars and men of letters—men who by no twist of the imagination could be accused of indifference toward aught that is noble or precious in our inheritance—and have been shown to have little or nothing in them.

If anyone thinks that I am overstating the case let him use his first leisure in calmly reviewing the discussion. Let him read what has been written by Max Müller, Murray, Whitney, Haldeman, March, Lounsbury, and, more recently, by Brander Matthews. The opposition he will have to get mainly from the newspapers. When he has finished his review, he may still say that what is called spelling reform is foolishness or is an idle dream that can never be realized; but he will not be likely to say that the obstacle in the way is sound reason. What attaches us to our conventional spelling is not a body of convictions, but

simply habit and feeling. A different habit would beget a different feeling. * * *

What is needed is to prepare the way for a generation whose feelings shall be somewhat different from ours—a generation that shall have less reverence than we have for what is called usage. During the last hundred and fifty years we have become a race of dictionary worshipers; and we have gone so far in our blind, unreasoning subserviency to an artificial standard that the time has come for a reaction. We need to reconquer and assert for ourselves something of that liberty which Shakspere and Milton enjoyed. We need to claim the natural right of every living language to grow and change to suit the convenience of those who use it. This right belongs to the written language no less than to the spoken. We have the same right to make usage that Steele and Addison and Dr. Johnson had; and there is just as much merit in making usage as in following it. The tendency, or *Trieb*, which leads a people continually to refashion its inheritance is just as august, just as worthy of respect, as the conservative tendency. Indeed it is more worthy of respect, for it is the sign of a living language, and life is better than death.

There are signs that the reaction desiderated a moment ago is beginning. We seem to be entering upon an era of assertive individualism in this matter of spelling, and that is precisely what is needed. It is to be hoped that in the next few years variant spellings may continue to spring up in a luxuriant crop and compete with one another for acceptance. It is to be hoped that good dictionaries may multiply, each claiming to be the best and each giving you a liberal choice for your money. Let editors and publishers show that they have a mind of their own and dare to use it—not to the extent of attempting radical and schematic reforms, but to the extent of trying experiments and adopting the more rational of competing forms. Let literary men be brought to see by an infinite series of slight shocks that spelling was made for man, and that a change of spelling is no more an attack upon literature than an improved musical notation, if we could invent one, would be an assault upon music and an insult to the memory of Beethoven. In this way we shall gradually recover for our children's children the lost criterion of common sense.

Some one will say, perhaps, that this means chaos, confusion, the undoing of the work of the great and good Samuel Johnson. I reply: Yes, a little chaos will do us good. It is just the thing we need as a transition stage toward a better regulation hereafter. No great interest of society is bound up with the use of a uniform spelling. So long as we keep within the limits of easy intelligibility it is no more important that we spell alike than that we pronounce alike or dress alike. We have always allowed ourselves some latitude in the spelling of particular words and no damage has been done. Shakspere had no Unabridged to consult and he spelt very much as the spirit moved him; yet literature can hardly be said to have languished in his hands. * * *

In matters pertaining to the spoken language I hold that the scholar will do his duty best if he lean somewhat heavily toward the side of conservatism; for there the influences that make for rapid and often undesirable change are in the ascendant, and the scholar best knows what is noble and precious in our heritage. When we come to the written language, however, the case is entirely different. There the influences that make for conservatism are already strong enough and too strong, and the scholar may wisely exert his influence for a gradual loosening of the tension of our orthographic superstition, for he best knows how large a part of our standard is and was in the beginning fortuitous, capricious, absurd, and based on pedantic blundering.

And now for my promised practical suggestion. I think that we need teachers' courses on the history of English spelling. I mean courses to be given in normal schools, high schools, colleges, and universities—wherever primary and secondary teachers are preparing for their work. If you please, we need a new style of spelling book, one whose object should be to show the coming teachers of children just how we got into our present muddle. I would take the schoolmaster, or more properly the schoolma'am, by the hand and lead her up close to the idol that we have set up for worship under the name of USAGE. I would gently draw aside the wrappings and give her a glimpse of the sawdust and the cotton and the paint. I would call her attention to the glass beads that she has mistaken for diamonds and rubies.

The history of English spelling is a legitimate and dignified branch of scholarship, and if properly presented could be made of fascinating interest to prospective teachers. The book that I have in mind would be somewhat difficult to prepare, but not hopelessly so. It could almost be compiled from the extant writings of Professor Lounsbury. It would be very simple and elementary. It would not presuppose a knowledge of Anglo-Saxon, but it might make use of easy Anglo-Saxon illustrations. It would be strictly scientific; no partizanship, no spelling reform in it—at least none visible to the naked eye. The object of it would be simply to mediate between the scholar's knowledge and the minds of those who are to teach children. But you say, peradventure, What good would it do? The teacher who had learned all that could be learned in that way would still be obliged to teach the conventional spelling. Yes, but it would no longer be the same thing. She would do her work—occasionally, at least—with a wild gleam of intelligence in her eye. Instead of a blind, unreasoning subserviency to a big book of mysterious and awful authority; instead of a dogmatic and categorical imperative, Thus shalt thou spell and not otherwise—there would be little schoolroom discussions about the reason and the propriety of things; and that sort of thing, going on in many thousand places, would contribute to what I called a moment ago the recovery of the lost criterion of common sense. And occasionally something like this would happen: The teacher whose pupil had misspelled, say the word *foreign*, instead of reprimanding and marking him down, would say to him: "Well, Johnny, the fashion is to spell it *f-o-r-e-i-g-n;* but the *ig* got there by mistake, there is no reason why they should be there, and I think that if I were beginning life, as you are, I should unload them." And Johnny would go out into life with a hundred orthographic "ideas" in his head; and in one way and another he would let them out upon the community—to the great advantage thereof.

To speak a little more seriously, my thought is this. When any inherited fashion or custom has become inconvenient and needs to be changed, but can not be changed directly because of a superstitious reverence for tradition as such, the best way to prepare a change is to let in the light of knowledge upon its origin. At present, so far as spelling is concerned, this light

shines only for scholars. We need to diffuse it thruout the community.

I commend this suggestion to our own English scholars and also to the National Educational Association. Let the latter, instead of agitating for a national commission on spelling reform, which at the best could accomplish but little, call for and insist upon the instruction of primary and secondary teachers in the simple outlines of the history of English spelling. To that no one could reasonably object, since what it is proposed to teach is simply the truth, and is in itself worth knowing, if any history is worth knowing. It would work no sudden miracles, but it would lead gradually and more speedily I believe than any other kind of effort to the amelioration of our spelling.

CALVIN THOMAS.

Simplified Spelling Board, Circular No. 4, May 7, 1906.

THE SPELLING OF YESTERDAY AND THE SPELLING OF TO-MORROW.

[By BRANDER MATTHEWS, D.C.L., Professor of Dramatic Literature in Columbia University.]

It is greatly to be regretted that no scholar has yet written a full "History of English Orthography," the record of all our ever-shifting spellings. This book would be useful in many ways, and it would reveal to the doubting conservatives that they need feel no veneration for certain of the most flagrant absurdities of our current orthography, as the worst of these are often comparatively recent, having no sanction of antiquity. There are many who instinctively dislike the accepted spelling of *rhyme*, for example, and of *comptroller*—two of the most obviously ridiculous of our current orthographies—but who are too timorous to take the liberty of simplifying either of these spellings, and who would be greatly gratified to be informed that these accepted complexities are only two or three centuries old and that the words were previously spelt as they are pronounced, *rime* and *controller*.

The publication of a true history of our orthography would also convince the average reader that there is not now any "standard" spelling for all the words of the language, and that

there never has been any standard spelling in the past. There is divergence of usage between writers of distinction to-day, as there always has been. There is disagreement in the recommendations made by the foremost dictionaries, as there always has been. There is no uniformity now, and there never has been any uniformity. And what we need to grasp most firmly is the fact, not only that there is not now a standard of spelling, but also and more emphatically that there never has been any authority to set up a standard. Spelling is like speech; it is the result of a tacit agreement to employ certain symbols; and every one of us reserves the right of individual judgment as to the symbols he will employ.

If any man insists upon the misleading spelling of *comptroller*, we can assure him that this orthography misrepresents the sound of the word, that it also suggests a false origin, and that there is an absurdity in combining a sturdy old English word with Frenchified complexities which mean nothing. But the culprit may retort that he likes to spell the word in just that way and that he proposes to do so for ever and ever; and what are we going to do about it? To this there is no answer except to admit that the right of any individual user of the language to spell as he sees fit. This admission assures to the wilful man the privilege of clinging to *comptroller*, while it also asserts the right of any one else to use the more logical, the simpler, and the older *controller*.

Other wilful men may cling to *metre*, altho they are in the habit of spelling it *meter* in its compounds *diameter* and *thermometer*. They may prefer to bestow a needless French tail upon *programme*, altho they always spell *epigram* without any such wasteful redundancy. They may have a fondness for another French termination in *cigarette* and *aigrette*, altho *omelet* and *epaulet* and *toilet* have long managed to survive shorn of this appendix. And these wilful men have each of them a right to this opinion and to this orthography, if they choose, for who is to say them nay? Who has any warrant to interfere? And, on the other hand, they have no right to object to those of us who prefer the simplest forms, and who write not only *rime* and *controller* and *meter*, but also *tho* and *altho* and *catalog*. We claim the same privilege that we grant to every one else. But it is only a privilege to be exercised with discretion; it is not a duty to be performed in accordance with law.

There is not a right spelling of any word to be enforced upon every one; there is only a spelling which is generally accepted, and which may be modified from time to time by tacit consent. There is not now and there never has been any general agreement as to English spelling, or any authority having the right to lay down any rules for it. There is divided usage now in regard to hundreds of words, and there has always been divided usage. There is no special sanctity in either *musicke* or *music*, *æra* or *era*, *toilette* or *toilet*, *phantasie* or *fantasy*, *sovereign* or *sovran*, *pædagogue* or *pedagog*, *technique* or *technic*, *plough* or *plow*, *though* or *tho*. Every one of us has a right to his own opinion; if he prefers cumbersome complexity, he can have his own way; and if he would rather employ the briefer and more direct spelling, he is within his rights as a human being.

If we had a history of English orthography it would show that countless modifications have taken place since the invention of printing. It would prove also that English, like every other language, has been vainly striving to make its spelling exactly represent its pronunciation and that it has failed, partly because the pronunciation of a language is constantly changing, and generally changing more rapidly than the spelling can be modified to conform to it. A change in pronunciation—like that of *either*, which was *eether* half a century ago and which now is partly *eyether*—can spread very swiftly by imitation; but a change in spelling to correspond exactly with the new pronunciation meets with far more resistance, since the eye seems to be more conservative than the ear. When the eye has long been accustomed to certain symbols as conveying a certain meaning it is annoyed that these customary symbols should be disturbed, even when they are no longer accurately representative of the sound. This is why strictly "phonetic" spelling is really impracticable, even if it is wholly desirable; to accomplish it there would have to be uniformity of pronunciation, or at least an absolute standard of pronunciation, which does not exist now and which never has existed. And even a close approach to phonetic exactness of orthography would call for so many alterations of the symbols to which our eyes are accustomed that we may dismiss it as impracticable.

The English-speaking race is essentially conservative, and it declines to be driven too fast. It will not give up the symbols to which it is accustomed. Any scientific phonetic reform of

our common spelling is absolutely impossible; it lies outside the sphere of practical politics. But altho phonetic reform is impossible, improvement of some sort is possible, if too much is not demanded too suddenly. As Sainte-Beuve once suggested: "Orthography is like society; it will never be entirely reformed; but we can at least make it less vicious."

And how truly vicious our present spelling is anyone can see for himself. It is unworthy of a practical people. It misrepresents the derivation of the words; it is wholly unscientific; it is as wasteful as it is absurd; and it is inferior to the spelling of French and of German, and far inferior to the spelling of Italian and Spanish. No better example could be found of the inconsistency of human nature than the fact that the most businesslike of races has been so long content with the most unbusinesslike of orthographies.

An accomplished historian of our noble language has asserted that English is now "the most barbarously spelt of any cultivated tongue in Christendom. We are weltering in an orthographic chaos in which a multitude of signs are represented by the same sound and a multitude of sounds by the same sign." And he then illustrates this confusion by drawing attention to the fact that one and the same sound is now represented by *e* in *let*, by *ea* in *head*, by *ei* in *heifer*, by *eo* in *leopard*, by *ay* in *says*, by *ai* in *said*, and by *a* in *many*. Here we have seven different symbols for a single vowel sound, and the most of these same symbols in other words represent other vowel sounds. Nor are the consonants very much more exact, as we see when we are reminded that one and the same sound is now represented by *s* in *sure*, by *sh* in *ship*, by *sci* in *conscience*, by *ci* in *suspicion*, by *ce* in *ocean*, by *ti* in *notion*, and by *xi* in *anxious*—again seven different symbols for a single sound.

Here is chaos come again—a chaos so widespread and of such long standing as to make it hopeless for any one to attempt a radical reform and to urge a rigorous representation of a single sound by a single symbol always the same. Our race clings to ancient landmarks; it has a misplaced affection for all these multiplied and misleading symbols. The earlier movements for spelling reform failed to accomplish much, because their leaders did not sufficiently take into account this indurated conservatism, which is unwilling to change even when the reasons for the change are overwhelming. Any future movement for simpler

spelling can hope for success only in proportion as it reckons with prejudice, and as it makes its approach along the lines of least resistance. If we can not be browbeaten by logic into accepting a single symbol for a single sound, perhaps we can be persuaded to strive for an easier simplification by leaving out those superfluous letters of all sorts, which merely dilute our ordinary orthography, and which often have no right to be there.

The spelling of English is now more foolish than that of German or French (both of which have been somewhat amended of late), partly because English has, unfortunately, suffered more than any of the other modern languages from the evil influence of uneducated printers and of half-educated pedants. The printers were the first in the field, and their misdeeds are at once easier to understand and harder to counteract. The earliest printers in England were not Englishmen; mostly they were Germans or Dutchmen, to whom English was a foreign speech.

Now it is possible for compositors to set type in a language of which they are wholly ignorant, but they probably would be less careful and make more blunders in setting up books in a language which they half knew. "As foreigners they had little or no knowledge of the proper spelling of our tongue," so Professor Lounsbury has recorded, adding that, "in the general license that then prevailed, they could venture to disregard where they did not care to understand." The result is that the spelling of the original editions of the masterpieces of Elizabethan literature is a marvel of typographic incompetency and of orthographic recklessness. Spelling was then less accurate; it was more clumsy and more slovenly than it had been when the multiplying of books was left in the hands of the better-trained copyists.

So numerous were the variations in the spelling even of ordinary words that a reaction was bound to follow. Toward the end of the seventeenth century and in the earlier years of the eighteenth an effort was made to bring order out of chaos. Unfortunately this attempt toward uniformity was not guided by wisdom or by knowledge, but rather by chance and by caprice, since it was the work of the printers themselves, who knew nothing about the principles which should control the adjusting of spelling to pronunciation. A certain kind of uniformity was achieved in time by the acceptance of the standards

set by the printers. This uniformity, from which our children are now suffering, was external, arbitrary, mechanical, and unscientific. In effecting it, so Professor Lounsbury has declared with characteristic plainness of speech, "propriety was disregarded, etymology perverted, and every principle of orthography defied."

It was a grave misfortune that the mismade spelling thus casually manufactured was accepted by Bailey, and after him by Dr. Johnson, whose "Dictionary," published in the middle of the eighteenth century, gave it currency and authority, which his more ignorant disciple Walker only helped to extend and establish. And if the English language has to-day the worst spelling of any of the modern languages, this is due largely to the influence of Dr. Johnson, and to the weight of his ponderous personality. If he had only known just a little more about the history of his own language, and if he had exerted his dominating influence against the more obvious absurdities and inconsistencies foisted into our spelling by the narrow pedantry of arrogant proof readers, secure in a perilous half-knowledge—in short, if Dr. Johnson had not only known more about English, but had also cared more—our orthography would be less unsatisfactory to-day and it could be more easily set right.

In his regard for Latin, and in his ignorance of English as it had been before the printers came, Johnson accepted *comptroller*, ignoring the older *controller*. He allowed *sovereign* and *foreign* (as tho they had something to do with the Latin *regno*) instead of the older *soverain* (Milton's *sovran*) and *forrain*. He countenanced *debt* and *doubt*, with the useless and disfiguring *b*, which was thrust in by earlier pedants. He kept a Latin *p* in *receipt*, tho he left it out of *deceit*. He spelt *deign* one way and *disdain* another. He was willing to leave a needless and misleading *s* in *island*, altho it had been *iland* in Shakespeare's time. He seems to have supposed that the older English *agast* would look more ghostlike if spelt *aghast*. He saw no harm in *delight*, altho the older form, representing more accurately both the sound and the origin, was *delite*. He cast out the Shakespearean *ake* for a labored *ache*. He kept up the accidental and perfectly useless distinction in the spelling of the final syllables of *accede* and *exceed*, of *precede* and *proceed*.

The more clearly we see the full effect of Johnson's accidental influence in fixing upon our orthography all these infelicities

and many others like them, the more we are moved to regret that the burly doctor undertook to prepare the dictionary of a language which he had not investigated historically, and in which he held it disgraceful to compose an epitaph. The arguments which Dr. Johnson advanced in his pamphlet on "Taxation no tyranny" did not convert our forefathers then fighting for their freedom; and perhaps the time has now come when their descendants can decide for themselves whether they will accept or reject the cumbersome spellings preserved in the dictionary made by the man George III pensioned.

If only we had in our hands a satisfactory history of English orthography, we should find an easy answer to one protest frequently made against any proposed simplification of our spelling. This is to the effect that it is our duty to preserve for our children the orthography which was used by Addison and by Swift, by Milton and by Shakespeare, since the spelling that was good enough for these great masters of English literature ought surely to be good enough for us. But this protest is never voiced by any one who is familiar with the original editions of Milton and of Shakespeare; it is possible to those who are familiar only with the ordinary library editions set up in "modern spelling"—that is to say, in the spelling arbitrarily agreed on in the printing offices of the eighteenth century, and ignorantly accepted by Dr. Johnson. This "modern spelling" misrepresents the text of the masters of English literature. Altho it was accepted in most of the editions issued in the nineteenth century, it is now rejected by the severer scholarship of our own time, which insists on reproducing the original orthography.

The multiplication of these more scholarly editions of the English classics will soon convince even the careless reader that English spelling has always been shifting, and that it was often simpler in the past than it is to-day. It will convince him that the so-called "modern spelling" has no sanctity from use by the masters. It is not the spelling of Addison and Swift, of Milton and of Shakespeare; it is only the spelling of Samuel Johnson, author of the "Vanity of human wishes." It is the spelling of yesterday, but it is not the spelling of the day before yesterday, and it will not be the spelling of to-morrow. Many of the more cumbersome forms of the Johnsonian canon—*governour*, for example, and *waggon* and *gaol*—have long been abandoned here in the United States. Many more are likely to be given up in

the immediate future. Already is *rime* making its way back into use, and probably *sovran* would seem strange now to no student of Milton. No lover of Tennyson finds anything unusual in *stept* and *stopt*, which the laureate liked better than *stepped* and *stopped*, perhaps as more frankly monosyllabic and therefore more harmoniously fitted into his verse; and perhaps because he followed the practise of the older poets of our tongue.

It was the shrewd Bismarck who declared that "we can not hasten the course of time by setting our watches forward." But the course of time is even steadier in its advance than the most trustworthy of our watches. Even in the nineteenth century there was some progress toward simplicity in our spelling, and now at the beginning of the twentieth century the time seems ripe for another step or two. The Simplified Spelling Board is profoundly convinced that the peoples who speak English are very conservative and very slow to move along the path of reformation, and therefore it is going to refrain from all radical suggestions. Its members agree with M. Brunetière that "we can do what we desire only on condition that we do not desire what is not in our power."

It is prepared to make haste slowly and not to expect too much in a hurry. It is planning a campaign in which ultimate victory is only dimly foreseen. It proposes first of all to call public attention to the whole question and to keep on calling attention to it, urging every man to inquire into it for himself and to decide on his own course. It hopes to be able to encourage independence and to overcome lethargy and in time to make a breach in the walls of bigoted conservatism. It has issued a list of words now spelt in two ways, and it will urge the public and the publishers and the printers to accept finally the simpler of the two. It will lend the weight of its authority to the various minor simplifications now struggling to establish themselves—*tho* and *altho*, for example, *catalog* and *program*, *esthetic* and *maneuver*. Attempting at first only the easiest things and those nearest at hand, working along the line of least resistance and arousing as little opposition as possible, it will propose still further simplifications by the casting out of letters which are plainly superfluous. Slowly and steadily, without haste and without rest, it will try to win acceptance for many little simplifications inconspicuous and unimportant

individually, but collectively putting our spelling in a more satisfactory position to take a longer step in advance whenever the public has been prepared to consider this favorably.

One result of its efforts is likely to be the restoration of many an old spelling discarded foolishly in the eighteenth century. And another will be to accelerate more or less the constant tendency toward simplicity (by the casting out of useless letters) which has been steadily at work in English from the very beginning, and which is opposed only by those who are obstinate in declaring that there shall be no change of any kind hereafter. The board believes that this attitude of opposition to all change is not only unreasonable in itself, but also that it is contrary to the tradition of the language. It feels assured that its fellow-citizens, however wedded to the existing forms, can be made to see clearly the many disadvantages of the present spelling of our language, with the resulting wastefulness of time and money, with its inconvenience for foreigners, and with its cruelty to our own children. The few and simple changes that it is urging may seem strange at first to many, just as *jail* and *almanac* and *wagon* seemed strange at first to our fathers, accustomed to *gaol* and *almanack* and *waggon*. But as our fathers accepted these after a while, so our children will accept other similar simplifications. We must seize every chance that offers to keep our spelling as near our pronunciation as may be possible, or else the future of English orthography will be worse even than its present.

In his admirable "History of French Classical Literature" M. Brunetière, that most conservative of scholars, has this striking passage: "Neither orthography nor pronunciation—which in all the languages of the world, ancient and modern, has never been more than an approximation—depends immediately on the caprice or on the will of men. They evolve with us, under human influences generally, altho no doubt there are physical influences also; but even when we can disengage these influences we can never have more than a retrospective knowledge of them, since they have about exhausted their action when we succeed in defining it. And this is why the orthography and the pronunciation of a language change more or less from century to century; this is also the reason why they can never be 'reformed.'" The one comment which needs to be

appended to this is obvious: Orthography can not be "reformed" out of hand, but it can be bettered; and it is equally obvious that it can be bettered only by sustained and intelligent effort.

BRANDER MATTHEWS.

Simplified Spelling Board, Circular No. 5, June 18, 1906.

LIST OF COMMON WORDS SPELLED IN TWO OR MORE WAYS.

THE THREE HUNDRED WORDS, WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

The "List of common words spelled in two or more ways," published by the Simplified Spelling Board as one of its circulars (No. 2, March 21, 1906), has proved to be an effective argument in the hands of the advocates of simplified spelling. It contains a selection of three hundred common words in which the process of stereotyping irregular or anomalous forms has not prevailed, and in which, therefore, a choice still lies open between a simple or normal form, and a less simple or anomalous form. Such lists are to be found in the current dictionaries, but they were compiled for a different purpose and not only include spellings long obsolete, but omit many spellings, like *dipt, dropt, stept, stript, crost, tost, drest, prest, vext, tho,* etc., which are in extensive use. For practical purposes a more critical list, adapted to schoolroom use, is required, and it appears in the circular mentioned.

The list is now printed in a briefer compass (only the simpler form being given) for the use of teachers, lecturers, writers, and others who may undertake to promote the acceptance and use of the simpler forms in schools, newspapers, and elsewhere.

In the former circular authorities are given only for some of the inflected forms, like *blest, dript, dropt, stept, stopt,* etc., which the dictionaries to a great extent neglect or ignore. In the list as now printed authorities are given for all the simple forms recommended. The simple form mentioned is followed by the initial letters of the dictionaries or societies which prefer or recommend it or allow it as a secondary or alternative form (here marked with a superior figure [a]), or else it is followed by the names of standard authors in whose works it is found. The forms have been taken directly from original editions, or

from facsimile or critical reprints, and exact references can be furnished in every case.

The dictionaries named are those now most current in the United States, Webster (1864, 1890, 1900), the Century (1889–1891), and the Standard (1894). The Oxford English Dictionary (1884–190—) is not included in the comparison, because it is not yet completed; but the parts published give nearly all the simplified spellings mentioned in this list, under the words concerned, and many thousands more. That dictionary is in fact a perfect arsenal of arguments and proofs for simplified spelling, and sweeps away the last refuge of those who have been fondly opposing, in the supposed name of literature and scholarship, the further improvement of English spelling.

It is to be observed that while English dictionaries have from the beginning shown a progressive simplification of spellings, the progress since Webster's first quarto edition (1828) has been almost systematic, each dictionary going ahead of its predecessor in the extent of simplification. And now the public is going ahead of the dictionaries. Thousands of prominent men and women, with the advice and approval of the leading philologists and educators of the country, have promised in writing to adopt, and they are now personally using, the simplifications recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board. They form a body of enlightened and determined public opinion that can not be disregarded. And their number increases every day.

Is it not time, then, for all those who have to do with the teaching of spelling, or the presentation of the English language in any phase, to do now, spontaneously and with the due exercise of their influence, what they must do, willingly or not, at a later time not remote? The continuous simplification of English spelling is inevitable.

W=Webster's Dictionary (1864, 1890, 1900).
C=Century Dictionary (1889–1891).
S=Standard Dictionary (1894), with supplement.
P=Philological societies, that is, the American Philological Association and the (British) Philological Society.
NEA=The National Educational Association (the Twelve Words, 1898).

Nearly all the three hundred simplified spellings here mentioned, and three thousand more, are recommended by the philological societies. The fact is here noted only in a few special cases. It is to be understood that for all the simple forms here supported by dictionary authority only, as approved or allowed, the usage of innumerable authors can be cited.

Most of those recommended by the philological societies are also old established forms, with abundant literary and technical authority. See the paragraphs following the list.

The superior figure indicates that the dictionary in question allows the form so marked as an alternative or secondary spelling.

abridgment	W C S.
accouter	W C² S.
accurst	W² C² S.
acknowledgment	W C S.
addrest	Spenser, Jonson, Milton, Pope, Fitzgerald, C² S².
adz	W C S.
affixt	P.
altho	Bunyan, P NEA.
anapest	W C S.
anemia	C S.
anesthesia	W² C² S.
anesthetic	W² C² S.
antipyrin	C S.
antitoxin	C S.
apothem (better than *apothegm*)	
apprize	Goldsmith, Miss Edgeworth, C².
arbor	W C S.
archeology	Skeat, W² C² S.
ardor	W C S.
armor	W C S.
artizan	Addison, C² P.
assize	W C S.
ax	W C S.
bans (not *banns*)	Gay.
bark (not *barque*)	W C S.
behavior	W C S.
blest	W² C² S².
blusht	Shakespeare, Burns.
brazen	W C S.
brazier	W C S.
bun	W C S.
bur	W C S.
caliber	W C S.
caliper	W C S.
candor	W C S.
carest (not *caressed*)	Burns.
catalog	Minsheu (1599), S P NEA.
catechize	W² C S.
center	W C S.
chapt	P.
check	W C S.
checker	W C S.

chimera	W C S.
civilize	W C S.
clamor	W C S.
clangor	W C S.
clapt	Bible (1611), Shakespeare, Dekker, Fuller, De Foe, Lamb, Tennyson, C² S².
claspt	Stanyhurst, Goldsmith, Tennyson, C² S².
clipt	Bible (1611), Shelley, Tennyson, Lowell, C² S².
clue	W C S.
coeval	W C S.
color	W C S.
colter	W C S.
commixt	S².
compresst	Tennyson.
comprize	Holland, Florio, Henry More.
confest	Raleigh, Milton, Dryden, Addison, Pope, Gray, Goldsmith, Trumbull, C² S².
controller	W C S.
coquet	W C S (v.).
criticize	W² C S.
cropt	Bible (1611), Pope, C².
crost	Shakespeare, Bunyan, Dryden, Burns, Scott, Tennyson, Lowell.
crusht	Spenser, Bible (1611), Milton, Fuller, Burns.
cue	W C S.
curst	Shakespeare, Bunyan, Dryden, Goldsmith, Pope, Burns, W² C² S².
cutlas	C S.
cyclopedia	W C S.
dactyl	W C S.
dasht	Lodge.
decalog	P NEA.
defense	W C S.
demagog	P NEA.
demeanor	W C S.
deposit	W C S.
deprest	Milton, Gray, Burns.
develop	W C S.
dieresis	W² C S.
dike	W C S.
dipt	Bible (1611), Milton, Fuller, Dryden, Pope, Gray, Shenstone, Boswell, Scott, Tennyson, Lowell, S².
discust	P.

dispatch	W C² S².
distil	W² C S.
distrest	Raleigh, Milton, Thomson, Goldsmith, Burns, Lowell.
dolor	W C S.
domicil	W C² S.
draft	W C S.
dram	W C S.
drest	Spenser, Shakespeare, Bunyan, Dryden, Pope, Thomson, Shenstone, Goldsmith, Burns, Boswell, Lamb, Tennyson, W² C² S².
dript	Hacket.
droopt	Tennyson.
dropt	Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Shenstone, Coleridge, Jane Austen, Landor, Mrs. Browning, Tennyson, Swinburne, Lowell, Lytton, W² S².
dulness	Pope, Thomson, W² C S.
ecumenical	W C S.
edile	W² C S.
egis	W² C² S.
enamor	W C S.
encyclopedia	W C S.
endeavor	W C S.
envelop	W C S.
Eolian	W² C² S.
eon	W C S.
epaulet	W C S.
eponym	W C S.
era	W C S.
esophagus	W C S.
esthetic	W² C S.
esthetics	W² C S.
estivate	W² C S.
ether	W C S.
etiology	W² C S.
exorcize	C² S.
exprest	Spenser, Selden, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Goldsmith.
fagot	W C S.
fantasm	W² C².
fantasy	W C S.
fantom	W² C² S.
favor	W C S.
favorite	W C S.
fervor	W C S.
fiber	W C S.

fixt	Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Cowley, Bunyan, Dryden, Thomson, Thirlwall.
flavor	W C S.
fulfil	W² C S.
fulness	W² C S.
gage	W² C S.
gazel	W² C S.
gelatin	W C S.
gild (not *guild*)	C S.
gipsy	W² C S.
gloze	W C S.
glycerin	W C S.
good-by	W C S.
gram	W C S.
gript	Milton, Tennyson.
harbor	W C S.
harken	W² C S.
heapt	Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Lowell.
hematin	W C S.
hiccup	W² C S.
hock (not *hough*)	W C S.
homeopathy	W C S.
homonym	W C S.
honor	W C S.
humor	W C S.
husht	Shakespeare, Dryden, Wilson, Lytton.
hypotenuse	W C S.
idolize	W C S.
imprest	Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Burns, Cary.
instil	W C S.
jail	W C S.
judgment	W C S.
kist	Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Selden, Milton, Goldsmith, Lamb, Tennyson.
labor	W C S.
lacrimal	S.
lapt	Hooker, Tennyson, Lowell, Lewis, Morris.
lasht	Spenser, Shakespeare, Middleton, Quarles.
leapt	Shakespeare, Jonson, Addison, Collins, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Mrs. Browning, Swinburne, Lowell, W² C² S².

legalize	W C S.
license	W C S.
licorice	W C S.
liter	W C S.
lodgment	W C S.
lookt	Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Bunyan, De Foe.
lopt	Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Young.
luster	W C S.
mama	W^2 C S.
maneuver	W C S.
materialize	W C S.
meager	W C S.
medieval	W C S.
meter	W C S.
mist (not *missed*)	Shakespeare, Lodge, Jonson, Walton, Bunyan, Lowell.
miter	W C S.
mixt	Bible (1611), Shakespeare, Bacon, Jonson, Milton, Bunyan, Addison, Pope, Shenstone, Lowth, S^2.
mold	W C S.
molder	W C S.
molding	W C S.
moldy	W C S.
molt	W C S.
mullen	W^2 C^2.
naturalize	W C S.
neighbor	W C S.
niter	W C S.
nipt	Spenser, Shakespeare, Pope, Shelley.
ocher	W C S.
odor	W C S.
offense	W C S.
omelet	W C S.
opprest	Spenser, Raleigh, Jonson, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Thomson, Goldsmith, Burns, Byron, Tennyson.
orthopedic	W C S.
paleography	W C S.
paleolithic	W C S.
paleontology	W C S.
paleozoic	W C S.
paraffin	W C S.
parlor	W C S.
partizan	W^2 C S.
past (not *passed*)	Shakespeare, Dryden, Pope, Lowth, Goldsmith, Burns, Tennyson, Fitzgerald, W^2 C^2 S^2.

patronize	W C S.
pedagog	P NEA.
pedobaptist	W C S.
phenix	W C S.
phenomenon	W C S.
pigmy	W^2 C S.
plow	W C S.
polyp	W C S.
possest	Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Hooker, Raleigh, Milton, Fuller, Bunyan, Addison, Pope, Gray, Goldsmith, Lowell.
practise, v. and n.	W^2 C (v.) S.
prefixt	Mason (1800), P.
prenomen	W^2 C S.
prest	Spenser, Raleigh, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Shenstone, Goldsmith, Burns, Bulwer, Swinburne, Tennyson, Lowell, Fitzgerald, C^2.
pretense	W C S.
preterit	W C S.
pretermit	W C S.
primeval	W C S.
profest	Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Raleigh, Selden, Pope, Lamb.
program	Scott, Sweet, C S.
prolog	Furnivall, P NEA.
propt	Dryden, Pope, Burns, Frere, Tennyson, Lowell.
pur	W C^2 S.
quartet	W C S.
questor	W C S.
quintet	W C S.
rancor	W C S.
rapt (not *rapped*)	P.
raze	W C S.
recognize	W C S.
reconnoiter	W C S.
rigor	W C S.
rime	W^2 C S.
ript	Cowper.
rumor	W C S.
saber	W C S.
saltpeter	W C S.
savior	W C S.
savor	W C S.
scepter	W C S.
septet	W C S.
sepulcher	W C S.

sextet	W C S.
silvan	Scott, W C².
simitar	W² C S.
sipt	Lamb, Tennyson.
sithe	Milton, Johnson (1755), Walker (1775, 1791), Sheridan (1780), Worcester,² W² C² S².
skilful	W² C S.
skipt	Shakespeare, Milton.
slipt	Shakespeare, Hooker, Jonson, Tennyson, S².
smolder	W C S.
snapt	Lowth, Coleridge, S².
somber	W C S.
specter	W C S.
splendor	W C S.
stedfast	Bible (1611, 1906), Bunyan, Thomson, Shenstone, W² C².
stept	Spenser, Milton, Bunyan, Dryden, De Foe, Pope, Goldsmith, Burns, Scott, Jane Austen, Tennyson, S².
stopt	Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Thomson, Goldsmith, Scott, Jane Austen, Tennyson.
strest	P.
stript	Shakespeare, Fuller, Bunyan, Pope, Richardson, Shenstone, Goldsmith, Burns, Scott, Lamb, Tennyson, Swinburne, Lowell, S².
subpena	W² C².
succor	W C S.
suffixt	P.
sulfate	P S.
sulfur	Gale (1676), P S.
sumac	W C S.
suppress	Hooker, Jonson, Fuller, Pope.
surprize	Fuller, Evelyn, De Foe, Thomson, Shenstone, Goldsmith, Jane Austen.
synonym	W C S.
tabor	W C S.
tapt	Tennyson.
teazel	W² C S.
tenor	W C S.
theater	W C S.
tho	Evelyn, Bunyan, Mallet, Webster, (1806), P NEA.
(tho',	Evelyn, Dryden, Addison, Pope, De Foe, Thomson, Goldsmith, Johnson, Lamb, Tennyson, etc.)

thoro	NEA.
thorofare	NEA.
thoroly	NEA.
thru	P NEA.
thruout	P NEA.
tipt	Milton, Pope, Somerville.
topt	S².
tost	Milton, Dryden, Ray, Addison, Thomson, Shenstone, Burns, Whittier, Lowell, W² C² S².
transgrest	Hooker.
trapt	Tennyson, P.
tript	Shakespeare, Shenstone, Landor.
tumor	W C S.
valor	W C S.
vapor	W C S.
vext	Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Thomson, Tennyson, Longfellow, Lowell.
vigor	W C S.
vizor	W C S.
wagon	W C S.
washt	Puttenham, Spenser, Shakespeare, Hooker.
whipt	Shakespeare, Fuller, Pope, Scott, P.
whisky	W C S.
wilful	W² C S.
winkt	P.
wisht	Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton.
wo	W² C² S.
woful	W² C² S.
woolen	W C S.
wrapt	Jonson, Milton, Fuller, Dryden, Bunyan, Pope, Cowper, Burns, Scott, Lowell, Fiske, W² C² S².

It will be seen that of the three hundred simple forms included in the list, more than one-half are preferred by Webster's Dictionary, more than six-tenths are preferred by the Century, and two-thirds are preferred by the Standard; while nearly all the rest, except some of the inflected forms (which are often ignored), are allowed by all three dictionaries as alternative spellings, in many cases held equal in authority or superior in etymological accuracy to the form nominally preferred. The result is, in short, that nearly the whole list has the sanction of all the dictionaries current in the United States, either as preferred or alternative spellings.

And if dictionary authority is not sufficient, why not accept the authority of the greatest names in English literature?

It should be borne in mind that the simpler forms like *blest*, *dript*, *dropt*, *stept*, *stopt*, etc., here cited are only a few out of the large number that appear in the authors mentioned. They merely serve to establish the rule that once widely prevailed in English spelling. Such forms were for a long period perfectly normal and perfectly familiar, not only in verse but in prose. The rule was formally recognized by grammarians and lexicographers. In 1570, when Shakespeare was 6 years old, Peter Levins, in a school dictionary which he called *Manipulus vocabulorum* "A handful of words," and which was concerned mainly with spelling and rime, gives the rule: "This termination *opt* is written for *opped*, in the participles of the preter tense—as *stopt* for *stopped*, *lopt* for *lopped*, *propt* for *propped*, etc." (1570 LEVINS, *Manipulus vocabulorum* (reprinted 1867), col. 169.) He makes a similar statement as to *apt*, or *apte*, for *apped*—"as *capte* for *capped*, *hapte* for *happed*" (col. 28).

It was in accordance with this principle of simplification that the popular books of that generation were printed. "The whole booke of Psalmes" of Sternhold and Hopkins, the ballads, the broadsides, the letters of the time, all abound in these neat and pleasing forms. "The mirror for magistrates," a very popular series of versified legends and biographies (1559, 1575, 1587, etc.), contains a host of them, the dictionaries of the period (Cooper, Huloet, Levins, Baret) employ them, the fastidious Puttenham ("Arte of English Poesie," 1589) accepts them, and their appearance in Spenser (1579, 1590, 1596) and in Shakespeare, Bacon, and the rest, was no innovation, but was the accepted usage of the age. The Shakespeare instances appear on every page of the original text and of exact reprints. Milton (1645, 1667), beside the forms mentioned in the list, has *compast*, *abasht*, *languisht*, *vanquisht*, *admonisht*, *astonisht*, *diminisht*, *polisht*, *worshipt*, *supt*, *ceast*, *linkt*, *matcht*, *scorcht*, etc. The judicious Hooker (1594, 1617) has *matcht*, *preacht*, *represt*, *toucht*, etc. The learned Selden ("Titles of Honor," 1614) has *annext*, *distinguisht*, *hatcht*, *increast*, *laught*, *lockt*, *publisht*, *rankt*, *stampt*, *toucht*, etc., beside similarly simplified forms in *-d*, as *affirmd*, *allowd*, *betterd*, *entertaind*, *honord*, *referd*, *reformd*, *turnd*, etc., in great number. Ben Jonson ('Workes,' 1616) has *askt*, *dickt*, *helpt*, *laught*, *markt*, *pickt*, *rackt*, *shipt*, *walkt*, etc. Spenser (1579, 1590, 1596) has *askt*, *laught*, *launcht*, *deckt*, *purchast*, and the like, in endless profusion. Bacon has *blockt*, *lockt*, etc., Raleigh ("History of the World," 1614) has *checkt*, *dismist*, *dispatcht*, *laught*, *lockt*, *sackt*, *stuft*, etc. Fuller has *fetcht*, *flockt*, *knockt*, *preacht*, *toucht*, etc. Bunyan (1678, 1684, 1686) has *blockt*, *compast*, *fetcht*, *furnisht*, *hatcht*, *hoodwink't*, *lapst*, *lock't*, etc. Dryden, Addison, Pope, Thomson, Shenstone, Goldsmith use the like, and like forms are frequent in the letters of Scott, Lamb, and Tennyson, as well as in their poems. As for *tho* and *thro*, they occur, usually as *tho'* and *thro'*, with the needless apostrophe (which is often volunteered by the printer), in nearly every writer since the middle of the seventeenth century. *Thru* alone is a new spelling (Philological Societies, 1886, National Educational Association, 1898).

Surely, the regular or frequent use of a spelling (in itself entirely correct and regular) by standard authors like Shakespeare, Spenser, Bacon, Hooker, Jonson, Raleigh, Selden, Milton, Fuller, Walton, Bunyan, Evelyn, Dryden, Pope, Addison, Thomson, Shenstone, Richardson, Gray, Goldsmith, Burns, Scott, Byron, Coleridge, Lamb, Landor, Tennyson, Swinburne, Whittier, Lowell, justifies its acceptance or resumption by present writers even if the dictionaries and spelling books neglect or ignore it.

The Simplified Spelling Board will send its documents free to all who ask for them. All inquiries will be answered. The promise to use, as far as may be practicable, the simplified spellings recommended by the board has been signed by thousands. Send for information. Address Simplified Spelling Board, 1 Madison avenue, New York.

Simplified Spelling Board, Circular No. 6, June 25, 1906.

A STATEMENT ABOUT SIMPLIFIED SPELLING.

Much of the opposition which every forward movement meets is due to a failure to perceive exactly what its supporters desire. This is the case with the movement for the simplification of English spelling. Many of the articles which have appeared in the newspapers with reference to the movement, and to the Simplified Spelling Board, reveal serious misconceptions and in

some cases a complete lack of information. In order to clear away these misunderstandings and to supply some necessary information, the board calls attention to the following facts:

1. The board does not propose any "radical" or "revolutionary" scheme of reform, or any sudden and violent change of English spelling. Any proposal to upset suddenly and violently the accepted spelling of any literary language is foredoomed to failure. The board does not intend to advocate any modification of English spelling that is not temperate and reasonable. It is not in favor of any freakish orthography of any kind, like the misfit spelling of "Josh Billings" and of the "comic" paragraphers. It does not desire to relax the existing rules and analogies of English spelling. It desires rather to make them more certain, to extend them and enforce them, so as to get rid of needless exceptions, and produce a greater regularity than now exists.

2. The board's chief aim, in view of the fact that the English language bids fair to become the world language of the future, is to arouse a wider interest in English spelling, and to call attention to its present chaotic condition—a condition far worse than that existing in any other modern language. The board believes that when the people who speak English are fully awake to the many disadvantages of their present spelling, they will be glad to help every effort to better it, as it has been slowly bettered, by individual effort, in the past.

3. The board has not yet proposed any innovations of its own. It has begun by selecting from the several thousand words now spelled in two or more ways three hundred of the most common, and it has urged the public to adopt now the simpler of these two forms and thereby establish the principle of simplification. It believes that this is a natural and easy first step toward further simplifications, such as have been proposed and accepted from time to time, even in the nineteenth century and within living memory. Macaulay, for example, spelt *phænomenon*, Thackeray *cypher*, and Parkman *engulph*, altho every one now spells *phenomenon*, *cipher*, *engulf*. So *esthetic* and *program* are now established and *catalog* and *altho* are certain to win acceptance in the immediate future.

4. But the board will in due time make suggestions of its own. It will propose further simplifications of the same sort. It will advocate the casting out of certain letters which are not

sounded now, which do not affect the pronunciation according to existing analogies, and which merely cumber the orthography. This simplification by omission is nothing new; it is a process which has been going on for centuries and which has given us today, for example, *almanac*, *era*, *fantasy*, *public*, and *wagon* instead of *almanack*, *aera*, *phantasie*, *publick*, and *waggon*; and to go a little farther back, *bat*, *set*, *dim*, *sum*, *fish*, *true*, *civil*, *fatal*, etc., instead of the Elizabethan *batte*, *sette*, *dimme*, *summe*, *fysshe*, *trewe*, *ciuill*, *fatall*, etc. There is nothing radical, nothing dangerous, in urging the acceleration of this normal process.

5. The board does not propose to make or to recommend any change in the spelling of proper names, especially of surnames. That matter is out of its chosen province. Geographic names often need regulation, but there are societies and boards which take care of this.

6. The board does not pretend to be "consistent" in the spelling of its publications. For obvious reasons, the spelling of its publications is made to conform to the lists or rules the board may have adopted, up to the date of issue. The spelling will therefore become progressively simpler, and hence less inconsistent. The remaining "inconsistencies" belong to the old spelling, and not to the new. Until all of the old spelling is improved, some of it will remain unimproved.

7. The board can assure all who cherish the sentiment of loyalty to their mother-tongue, that simplifications of spelling will *not* obscure the meaning or the origin of a single word. In this statement all scholars agree, lexicographers and etymologists first of all. The proposed simplifications will *not* make it more difficult for anyone to read the masterpieces of English literature; and they will *not* render useless the books now in print. But they *will* save the time of all who write and the money of all who print; and they *will* make the language easier for our own children and for the foreigners who are now studying it, in increasing multitudes, all over the world.

8. The board begs leave to remind those who may be fearful in regard to the result of its recommendations that spelling is never stable, and that there is no final standard of orthography. Nowhere is there any authority to set up such a standard. All that the accepted dictionaries can do is to record the varying usages. Their editors have received no charter to decide finally

between conflicting forms, much less to propose improved forms. The board, on the other hand, seeks to change what is bad, and to introduce improvements. It wishes to establish and extend good usage, to make it national and international.

9. The board believes that the arguments against simplification are so weak that the expression of them will help the cause. It is confident that the more the matter is considered the larger will be the number of converts and the swifter the advance. Circumstances well understood by students of the subject have prevented many intelligent persons, even many men of letters, critics, journalists, and others connected with the public prints, from coming into contact with information upon the true nature and history of English spelling.

10. The board expects and welcomes criticism. It asks only that the criticisms shall be made after, and not before, the critic has read the publications of the board or has otherwise acquired the necessary information. The board does not wish to be considered responsible for proposals which it has not made, for views which it does not hold, or for things with which it has no concern. The board has many things to say and to propose, and must not be expected to state its whole case in the compass of one paragraph or of one pamphlet.

11. The board recognizes that the progress of the cause of simplification depends upon the continuous spreading of information. The work requires time and patience. New circulars and other documents will be sent out at intervals, but the board must not be expected to furnish something new every week. All persons interested may rest assured that the work will go on steadily until the main object is accomplished.

12. The board has among its members not only scholars and educators, not only men of letters and men of affairs, but also specialists in linguistic science, including the editors of the three chief American dictionaries. Perhaps, therefore, it has a right to be credited with some knowledge of the English language, of the history of English orthography, and of the difficulties to be overcome in the endeavor to simplify it. But the board makes no claim to "authority;" and its proposals must stand on their own merits, each for itself.

13. The board accepts the responsibility for its recommendations, present and future, because it knows that if there is to be progress the initiative must be taken by somebody. The simplification of spelling is no unconscious process, inevitable without human effort. Without human effort it would at once cease. Every one of the simplifications now accepted by all of us was once the overt act of a single individual, who was followed at first only by a small minority. If there is to be improvement in the future as there has been in the past, somebody must be willing to point the way, somebody must set the example, somebody must venture to propose the next step in advance. If only ten men think so, they should join and try to convince the rest. But the dissatisfaction with the present cumbersome and wasteful orthography is so widespread that thousands of men and women have already joined the movement and signed the promise to use simplified spellings recommended by the board. And the board has been gratified to find that many of these adherents express their disappointment that the recommendations so far made are not more numerous and more radical.

14. The board invites and will welcome the coöperation of any individual or of any organization who may wish to aid in the good work in any direction. Difference of opinion will help rather than hinder. The more the subject is discust the clearer the way will become, and the readier the public will be to take the next step in advance. The board will receive with pleasure all suggestions that may be sent to it, and it will forward its documents of information free of charge to all who will ask. Address the Simplified Spelling Board, 1 Madison avenue, New York.

O

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING

DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR USE IN THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

abridgment
accouter
accurst
acknowledgment
addrest

adz
affixt
altho
anapest
anemia

anesthesia
anesthetic
antipyrin
antitoxin
apothem

apprize
arbor
archeology
ardor
armor

artizan
assize
ax
bans
bark

behavior
blest
blusht
brazen
brazier

bun
bur
caliber
caliper
candor

carest
catalog
catechize
center
chapt

check
checker
chimera
civilize
clamor

clangor
clapt
claspt
clipt
clue

coeval
color
colter
commixt
comprest

comprize
confest
controller
coquet
criticize

cropt
crost
crusht
cue
curst

cutlas
cyclopedia
dactyl
dasht
decalog

defense
demagog
demeanor
deposit
deprest

develop
dieresis
dike
dipt
discust

dispatch
distil
distrest
dolor
domicil

draft
dram
drest
dript
droopt

dropt
dulness
ecumenical
edile
egis

enamor
encyclopedia
endeavor
envelop
Eolian

eon
epaulet
eponym
era
esophagus

esthetic
esthetics
estivate
ether
etiology

exorcize
exprest
fagot
fantasm
fantasy

fautom
favor
favorite
fervor
fiber

fixt
flavor
fulfil
fulness
gage

gazel
gelatin
gild
gipsy
gloze

glycerin
good-by
gram
gript
harbor

harken
heapt
hematin
hiccup
hock

homeopathy
homonym
honor
humor
husht

hypotenuse
idolize
imprest
instil
jail

judgment
kist
labor
lacrimal
lapt

lasht
leapt
legalize
license
licorice

liter
lodgment
lookt
lopt
luster

mama
maneuver
materialize
meager
medieval

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mist
miter
mixt
mold

molder
molding
moldy
molt
mullen

naturalize
neighbor
niter
nipt
ocher

odor
offense
omelet
opprest
orthopedic

paleography
paleolithic
paleontology
paleozoic
paraffin

parlor
partizan
past
patronize
pedagog

pedobaptist
phenix
phenomenon
pigmy
plow

polyp
possest
practise, v. and n.
prefixt
prenomen

prest
pretense
preterit
pretermit
primeval

profest
program
prolog
propt
pur

quartet
questor
quintet
rancor
rapt

raze
recognize
reconnoiter
rigor
rime

ript
rumor
saber
saltpeter
savior

savor
scepter
septet
sepulcher
sextet

silvan
similar
sipt
sithe
skilful

skipt
slipt
smolder
snapt
somber

specter
splendor
stedfast
stept
stopt

strest
stript
subpena
succor
suffixt

sulfate
sulfur
sumac
supprest
surprize

synonym
tabor
tapt
teazel
tenor

theater
tho
thoro
thorofare
thoroly

thru
thruout
tipt
topt
tost

transgrest
trapt
tript
tumor
valor

vapor
vext
vigor
vizor
wagon

washt
whipt
whisky
wilful
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END OF
TITLE